

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figs. 2, 7, and 8 with the following Replacement Drawings

Reference numeral 46 has been replaced with reference numeral 16 in Figs. 2 and 8.

Further, one occurrence of reference numeral 106 has been replaced with reference numeral 126
in Figs. 2, 7, and 8

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-10 and 12 have been amended herein. This Amendment, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated January 11, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 12, 20, and 21 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, discussed below.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Specifically, the Examiner asserts that reference numeral 16 is described on line 12 of page 5 of the Specification, but is not shown on any of the figures. Applicant respectfully submits that Figs. 2 and 8 have been amended to show reference numeral 16 and the Examiner's concerns have been fully addressed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). Specifically, the Examiner notes that reference character "106" has been used to designate both the power button on the cradle in figures 2, 7, and 8 and the recess in figure 6. Applicant submits that Figs. 2, 7, and 8, along with appropriate sections of the specification, have been appropriately amended, and all of the Examiner's concerns have been fully addressed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection also be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

In correlation with the above objections to the drawings, the Examiner has also objected to the specification due to inconsistent identification of elements within the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner objects to reference numeral 30 being used in the specification to designate both the power button on the camera and the power button on the cradle. Again, Applicant submits that the Specification has been appropriately amended, and all of the Examiner's concerns have been fully addressed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection also be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also objected to the title of the invention is not being descriptive. As a path of least resistance, Applicant as amend the title to "Digital Camera and Cradle on which the Digital Camera is Mounted" as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection also be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that these claims contains subject matter which is not described in the disclosure. Specifically, the Examiner notes that on April 24, 2007, claims 1-12 were amended to replace "cradle" with "removable cradle" and the Examiner asserts that this feature is not supported in the disclosure.

Applicant submits that claims 1-21 have appropriately been amended herein to recite that the "camera is removably mounted on the cradle". Applicant submits that this was the intended meaning of the phrase "removable cradle" and that this feature is fully supported in the originally filed disclosure. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10, 13, 14, and 16-19

Claims 1-10, 13, 14, and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gennetten (US 2004/0201774) in view of Ohmura (US 7,301,561). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites in part:

“A digital camera system comprising a digital camera and a removable cradle on which the digital camera is mounted, wherein:

the removable cradle comprises:

a movable portion;

a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion;
...and

the digital camera comprises:

a signal receiving device which receives the command signal generated according to the position of the movable portion of the removable cradle; ...”

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Gennetten discloses substantially all of the recited features. Specifically, the Examiner asserts (with reference to Figs. 1A-1C, 2A-2C, and 3A-3B) that Gennetten discloses a removable cradle comprising: a movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19) and a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion (triggering mechanism including elements 11, 8, 30, and 19). Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has misconstrued the Gennetten reference.

Gennetten is directed to an apparatus wherein a docked digital camera becomes an electronic picture frame. *See* Paragraph [0045]. As described in paragraph [0051] (and shown in Figs. 3A and 3B), when a camera 10 is mated to the camera mount 12, the camera 10 presses down a trigger mechanism 11. The trigger mechanism 11 is connected to a mechanical linkage

30 which is connected to a jack 19. Pushing the trigger mechanism 11 downward causes the jack 19 to rise within a post 9 exposing pins 7 which then engage camera contacts 17. The Examiner asserts that these structures correspond to the movable portion recited in claim 1. However, Gennetten does not teach or suggest a cradle comprising “a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera **according to a position of the movable portion**”. Nor does Gennetten teach or suggest a digital camera comprising “a signal receiving device which receives the command signal generated **according to the position of the movable portion of the removable cradle**”. The trigger and linkages cited by the Examiner may indicate connection to a camera but do not set the mode of the camera. To the extent Gennetten discloses modes of camera operation, these are provided by a series of buttons 34, 36, 38 (shown in Figs. 1A-1C) which must be pushed by the user to change camera functions and which are functions dependant on the type of connection of peripheral devices to the dock. *See* Paragraphs [0039]-[0042] on page 4. Therefore, no aspect of Gennetten sets a mode control signal based on positions of the moveable portions of the cradle.

Conversely, claim 1 recites in part a cradle comprising “a movable portion” and “a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion”. Claim 1 also recites a digital camera comprising “a signal receiving device which receives the command signal generated according to the position of the movable portion of the removable cradle”. As discussed in the specification (and shown in Figs. 12(a) and 12(b)), one exemplary embodiment of claim 1 is a docking cradle wherein the camera is attached to a camera mounting portion 604 which can slide to the left and right. *See* page 13, line 28-page 14, line 32. When the camera mounting portion is slid to the left, the cradle sends a signal to the camera to initiate one mode and when the camera mounting

portion is slid to the right, the cradle sends a signal to the camera to initiate a different mode. *Id.* The features recited in claim 1 can allow the changing of camera functions simply by adjusting the position of the movable portion without any other action by the user.

Gennetten does not teach or suggest the unique features of claim 1 above. Therefore, Applicant submits that at least these features are patentable over the Gennetten reference. Further, the secondary reference, Ohmura, cited by the Examiner does not cure the deficiencies of Gennetten because Ohmura does not teach or suggest a cradle comprising “a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion”. Nor does Ohmura teach or suggest a digital camera comprising “a signal receiving device which receives the command signal generated according to the position of the movable portion of the removable cradle”. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Gennetten and Ohmura for at least this reason.

Further, the Examiner concedes that Gennetten fails to teach that the camera is powered down before recharging the battery. The Examiner cites Ohmura for teaching this feature. The purported motivation for doing so is to reduce the time spent recharging by minimizing user interaction. *See Detailed Action*, page 8, first 3 lines. However, Gennetten permits a charging state even without user interaction. *See Paragraph [0043]*. The point of Gennetten is to allow viewing of images in idle mode. This viewing mode, in which the camera necessarily remains active, still allows recharging to continue. The powering down of the camera would defeat the object of Gennetten, which is to provide an electronic picture frame. *See Paragraphs [0002] and [00045]*. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the a person of ordinary skill in the art

would not combine the teachings of Gennetten and Ohmura as suggested by the Examiner and therefore claim 1 is patentable for this additional reason.

Applicant further submits that to the extent claims 2 and 9 recite features similar to those recited in claim 1, claims 2 and 9 are patentable over the combination of Gennetten and Ohmura for reasons analogous to those discussed above. Further, Applicant submits that claims 3-8, 10, 13, 14, and 16-19 all depend from claims 1, 2, and 9 and are therefore patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claim 15

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gennetten (US 2004/0201774 A1) in view of Ohmura (US 7,301,561 B2) in further view of Nagaoka (US 6,734,915 B2). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 15 depends from claim 1, which has been shown above to be patentable over the combination Gennetten and Ohmura. Nagaoka does not cure the deficiencies of Gennetten and Ohmura, because Nagaoka also does not teach or suggest a cradle comprising “a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion”. Nor does Nagaoka teach or suggest a digital camera comprising “a signal receiving device which receives the command signal generated according to the position of the movable portion of the removable cradle”. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits claim 15 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency and respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

As note above Claims 12, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. However, the Examiner has indicated that these claims would allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is overcome. Applicant submits that the claims have been appropriately amended to fully address the §112 rejection, and respectfully requests that these claims be allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

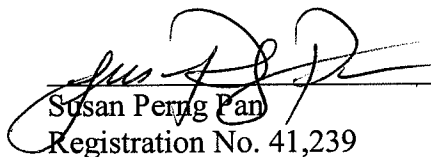
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Date: June 11, 2008